

SENATE RESOLUTION 20

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Ayers and Nina Porter on the celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as exemplars for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, on February 21, 1937, Ayers and Nina Porter were joined in holy matrimony, and since that fateful day this outstanding couple has faced the world as one, basking in the glow of their love for each other during both life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Porter have been highly respected citizens of Hamblen County for almost their entire seventy years of marriage; they are the very epitome of good neighbors, as they always endeavor to treat others as they would like to be treated; and

WHEREAS, the Porters' marriage had an unconventional beginning, as they could not get a marriage license in Hamblen County because the courthouse clerk knew Mr. Porter by name and knew he was only fifteen years of age;

WHEREAS, wearing his beloved Nina's class ring, Mr. Porter ingeniously hired a cab to take him to Greeneville, where no one would realize he was too young to be married; and

WHEREAS, learning they would have to marry in the county where their license had been issued, the Porters went to the nearest church they came to in Greene County, Phillipi Baptist Church; members of the church, having just concluded services, acted as witnesses as the pastor officially married the young couple; and

WHEREAS, Ayers Porter served with acumen and alacrity as the founder of Porter Tire Store; the business has grown to include three other locations and is now operated by his son and three grandsons; and

WHEREAS, Nina Porter has followed her noble calling as a homemaker, managing home and hearth and caring for her children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, this fine couple's praiseworthy marriage has produced three children, each of whom has excelled in his or her particular field of endeavor; the three children are Phyllis Ehresman, Ayers Porter, Jr., and Lynn Porter; and

WHEREAS, the Porters are also the proud grandparents of Bob Ehresman, Jr., Jeff Porter, Deirdre McAdams, Richard Porter, Roger Porter, Chad Porter, and Clint Porter; they have thirteen grandchildren: Chasity Porter, Fletcher Porter, Kristy Porter, Garrison Porter, Brant Porter, Kinley Porter, Leighton Porter, Chadlyn Porter, Kerri Porter, Caleb Porter, Christian Porter, Ty Porter, and Trey Ehresman; and

WHEREAS, for seventy years this blessed union has grown and prospered as an expression of time-honored family values and selfless love; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as the Porters' are truly the rock-solid foundation upon which our society is built and a beacon of sanity and continuity in these turbulent times; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Ayers and Nina Porter on the celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for much continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.